(b) if so, the reasons for increasing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in aviation sector when the "Vision 2020" document is already under the consideration of the Group of Ministers (GoM);

(c) whether it is a fact that after 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, bringing FDI in domestic carriers would be a security threat or risk;

(d) if so, whether Ministry of Home Affairs has cleared the proposal; and

(e) if not, the reasons for bringing such a proposal without having been considered by GoM and Home Affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) The proposal to allow foreign airlines to invest in domestic airline is under examination.

Relaxation in FDI norms

727. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had relaxed the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) norms for civil aviation in the recent past;

(b) if so, the benefits accrued to Government as a result thereof;

(c) whether the private airlines have been benefited more than the national airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to ensure that national airlines are not at loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Rail and road connectivity to metro airports

728. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether hue and cry raised over the connectivity of new Bangalore and Hyderabad airports has set to have positive spin-offs for 10 major airports across the country including those of the two silicon cities;

(b) if so, whether the Centre has got into the act to ensure proper road and rail based connectivity to the new and existing airports at the four metros and also at Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Kochi, Coimbatore and Pune;

(c) if so, what extent the project has been completed; and

(d) to what extent it has been helpful to these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Issue of city side connectivity of airport pertains to State Governments/ local authorities.